

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Four Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



AT through SNP, average 22 miles per day

AT - One way

Level: Experienced or Advanced

Total Length: 110.5 miles

Trip Description: Entire Appalachian Trail through Shenandoah NP: Wolfe to Tom Floyd shelters

Entry: 105 MP - Rockfish Gap/South Entrance

Exit: North AT/Tom Floyd Boundary

Map(s): PATC #9 - 11 All Districts

North District; East side; Route # 601

Day One

Campsite: AT (3D) Doyles River - Blackrock Gap* - backcountry

25.2 miles

Hike north on Appalachian Trail (AT) 25 miles from Paul C. Wolfe Shelter.

Obtain your free and required backcountry permit at the self-registration station on the AT just north of Rockfish Gap.

Turn left toward Blackrock Hut, hiking 0.2 mile.

Camp at the hut or designated campsite.

Day Two

Campsite: AT (3A) Swift Run - Simmons Gap* - backcountry

21.7 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile and hike north 21.4 miles.

Turn left to Hightop Hut, hiking 0.1 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Three

Campsite: Central District developed areas - campground or cabin

20.3 miles

Return to the AT, 0.1 mile, and hike north 20.2 miles.

Either register to camp at Big Meadows Campground or stay in Big Meadows Lodge.

Day Four

Campsite: AT (1D) Beahms Gap - Rt 211* - backcountry

20 miles

Return to the AT, about 0.3 mile, and hike north 19.5 miles.

Turn right to Pass Mountain Hut, hiking 0.2 mile; camp at the hut or designated campsites.

Day Five

23.7 miles

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile, and hike north 23.5 miles to Tom Floyd Wayside (shelter).

Notes

This hike starts at the Paul C. Wolfe shelter, south of Shenandoah National Park. You will enter the park on the first day at Rockfish Gap. You will exit the park on Day Five at Possums Rest. The Tom Floyd Wayside (shelter and campsites) is north of Shenandoah National Park.

Unless you are a thru-hiker, do not plan your trip along the AT in Shenandoah National Park from mid-May through mid-July! While the AT in the park is always busy, this is when the north-bound thru hikers come through, and there will not be any camping available at the huts or designated campsites.